

HARTFORD – Congressman John B. Larson (CT-01) applauded news that the Indian Government has formally approved an agreement to purchase 10 C-17 Globemaster III military aircrafts, powered by Pratt & Whitney engines.

“The agreement by India to purchase these aircrafts represents a major victory for our community and the entire state of Connecticut,” Congressman Larson said. “At a time when manufacturing in our state is continuing to make a strong comeback, this deal represents even more good news for the hardworking men and women who comprise Connecticut’s industrial base. I want to praise President Obama and Indian Prime Minister Singh for working together to make this historic agreement possible for both nations. This is a win-win situation for the United States and India, increasing our trade, economic, and security relations for years to come.”

Last July, Congressman Larson invited Indian Ambassador to the United States, Meera Shankar, to visit the Pratt & Whitney facilities in East Hartford and meet with United Technology executives and Pratt machinists. The focus of the visit was to expand the relationships between Connecticut manufacturers and the Indian Government, with much of the time spent discussing the C-17 program.

“Last year, Ambassador Shankar spoke to UTC executives and machinists about the great economic potential of expanding trade relations between her nation and the United States - and with this recent decision to finalize the purchase of C-17 aircraft, we are seeing this relationship solidify,” said Congressman Larson. “I am looking forward to continuing to work with the President, Connecticut companies like UTC, and our machinists to identify even more opportunities to ‘Make it in America’ and sell it around the world.”

Each Boeing C-17 military aircraft is powered by four Pratt & Whitney engines and with spares, it is expected that India would purchase approximately 45 engines. As stated by Boeing and the White House, this trade agreement is valued at approximately \$4.1 billion and supports an estimated 22,160 jobs nationwide, including thousands in Connecticut. Once the agreement is fulfilled, the Indian Air Force will be the owner and operator of the largest fleet of C-17s outside of the United States.

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